

FIRE PROTECTION POLICY BOARD

Work Session
January 23, 2008
General Administration Building
Olympia, WA

Board Members Present: T.J. Nedrow, Wayne Wienholz, Dean Hosni, Mark Kahley, Dean Shelton, Rick Chaney, Jim Broman and Jennifer Gregerson

Board Members Absent: None

WSP Staff Present: Mark Arras, Paul Snider, Ellen Tombleson, Mike Matlick and Anjela Foster

Guests Present: Bob Garrison and Sharon Colby

OPENING:

T.J. Nedrow, Chair, opened the meeting at approximately 9:10 with introductions and a review of the agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as presented.

DISCUSSION:

Set Back Issue ~ T.J. Nedrow shared that WSAFM has advised him that they are concerned with this issue, and will be addressing it strategically. This topic will be re-addressed at a future meeting when Mr. Jon Napier (Fire Service representative on the State Building Code Council) can attend and discuss this further in depth.

Creation of Firefighter Memorial Standing Committee ~ T.J. provided an overview of the planning process used in the past and restated the desire of the Fire Protection Policy Board to formalize this group as a standing committee reporting to the Fire Protection Policy Board. Mark Kahley advised that he would provide a DNR staff person to participate on the committee. In response to Dean Shelton's question regarding funding of this committee, T.J. explained that historically the costs were divided amongst the participating agencies. A Decision Item will be presented at the next Regular meeting to take action on this item.

Travel Funding for FPPB Committee Members ~ During discussion, it was emphasized that the State Fire Defense Committee operates without any travel reimbursement; the Fire Training and Education Committee operates on a per diem reimbursement basis, with limited travel funding provided, and the Fire Protection Workgroup operates on a limited per diem basis. During discussion on travel compensation, Jim Broman advised that he is in favor of providing travel compensation to committee members. He feels this is a critical element in ensuring participation on statewide committees. Dean Hosni agreed in concept, but questioned if other represented organizations may provide financial assistance. Mark Kahley also agreed with Jim, based on his experience with the State Fire Defense Committee. He also feels that lesser funded fire districts would benefit from having travel assistance provided.

Jim Broman advised that some committee members don't have financial assistance from their home jurisdictions. Jim feels if committee members are willing to provide their time, they should have their travel costs provided, and feels that the work product benefits from statewide participation.

T.J. Nedrow will follow up with State Fire Marshal Mike Matlick to reiterate that it is the desire of the Board to provide support to committee members, and request that he work with staff to provide follow up/proposal on this.

In discussion on regional funding, Jim Broman advised that he had discussion with Spokane area colleagues who are opposed to the idea of using regional funding to support committee travel costs. T.J., Jim and Mike plan to attend a meeting of the Inland Empire Chief's Association and will further discuss this issue. Mike added that funding for travel costs would need to come from a dedicated funding source. Mike also advised that any changes regarding regional funding would need to be presented at the February meeting, to align with the regional contract timeline.

Work Plan for 2008 Firefighter I & II ~ Mike Matlick advised that the Regional Recruit School being held in the Tri-Cities currently has 12 recruits enrolled, and 15 are needed to break even. He also advised that the Fire Training Academy is not currently able to meet the demands of providing Firefighter I & II training to meet the surge. It is intended that the Regional Delivery Proposal will be submitted to the legislature in 2009, pending agency and stakeholder approval. In response to Dean Shelton's question regarding the State Fire Marshal's Office directing students to attend specific recruit schools based on their location, Mike advised that the Regional Delivery Proposal would provide further insight to this issue. Mark Kahley offered that it critical to ensure the same quality of training, to the best of our ability, wherever the training is being offered.

Position on State Building Code Council ~ In discussion on the issue of adding a fire representative to the State Building Code Council, Jim Broman advised that the Washington Fire Chiefs, in conjunction with the Washington State Association of State Fire Marshals, developed a Position Paper that recommends the State Building Code Council should not have

authority to over-rule local elected officials in providing stricter building and fire code requirements in their jurisdictions, and that the State Building Code Council should be directed to explore a more balanced consensus process that ensures openness and due process. Jim Broman suggested that a Decision Item to endorse or reject this Position Paper (WFC Position Paper #22) be presented at the Board's Regular Meeting in February.

Fire Training and Education Review Committee ~ Chief Brian Van Camp advised that the Fire Training and Education Review Committee appreciates the Board's support in approving their Strategic Plan, and provided an overview of the Plan's 1st draft of priorities for the State Fire Training and Education Master Plan implementation:

Jim Broman stated that he struggles with Priority #2, as he (and the Washington Fire Chiefs) are opposed to adopting standards for firefighters that are less than Firefighter I. He is an advocate of fire departments and districts letting the public know up front what their capabilities are, and what level of service can be expected from them. He further stated that as work goes forward, the Committee needs to be cognizant of WAC 296.305. Mark Kahley advised that he agrees with Jim's position that the Board should not support adopting standards that are less than Firefighter I standards. T.J. requested confirmation that the current committee participation is adequate, and was advised that currently a consistent core is in place, and a lack of participation does not seem to be a problem. Chief Van Camp suggested that the Board forward a letter to the fire service organizations represented on the committee thanking them for their participation and ask that they reaffirm who their representative on the Committee is. Mike Matlick advised that he will distribute copies of the Fire Training and Education Master Plan to the Washington Fire Commissioner's at their Board meeting, and will also distribute them, along with the Fire Prevention Master Plan as he meets with fire service organizations across the state. Mike Matlick suggested that once developed, the Board's Strategic Plan will provide more specific direction to the Board's standing committees.

FPPB Elections ~ Dean Hosni advised that when the Board's Chair and Vice-Chair position are elected in May, that it will be necessary to elect a new Vice-Chair, as his term expires in April. Dean further explained that the Washington Insurance Council now rotates their representative on the Board between the 13 insurance companies in their group.

County Position Status ~ T.J. advised that a new appointment to fill the county representative position on the Board has not yet been made. The Governor's Office is currently in the process of determining a replacement for Bud, representing Counties. T.J. clarified that this position is not limited to County Commissioners, but includes any county official.

Annual Report ~ T.J. asked that Dean Shelton forward his bio for the Board's Annual Report to him and requested the rest of the Board members update their bios from the 2006 Annual Report as necessary. He further requested that the Board review the 2006 Annual Report and advise him of any items that should be included in the 2007 Annual Report.

Fire Prevention Plan Schedule ~ It was advised that the Fire Prevention Workgroup would meet on January 30, and hope to have a draft implementation schedule for the Fire Prevention Master Plan to the Board for inclusion in their Strategic Planning process.

Training Website ~ Mike advised that WSP Information Technology Division staff are in the process of reviewing Department of Personnel requirements. Further discussion on pursuing the development and maintenance of a state wide training website as an in house project vs. vendor contracting will be held at the next meeting.

Fire Protection Policy Board Strategic Planning ~ In discussion it was agreed that 100% participation by Board members in the planning session would be the optimum choice, but may not be feasible due to schedules. It was agreed that Chairs of the Board's Standing Committees should be invited to participate. It is intended that the session would be held in Olympia over a weekend. Chief Paul LeSage from Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue has been contracted to provide the facilitation for the development of the Board's Strategic Plan.

FPPB Meeting Format ~ In review of the agenda format for Policy Board Regular Meetings and Work Sessions, it was reaffirmed that standing committee Chairs would provide their committee reports at the Work Sessions, either in person as their schedules allow, or by emailing a written report to the Board Chair. They could also choose to attend the Regular Meetings, based on the agenda and their availability. It was also agreed that the State Fire Marshal would provide an in-depth report at the Work Sessions and a briefing at the Regular Meetings.

First Alert Detectors ~ Anjela Foster provided an overview of the offer from First Alert to donate carbon monoxide detectors to the Policy Board for distribution. Anjela advised that the Fire Protection Policy Board does have the ability to accept this donation, and that the plan is to distribute the detectors through the Regional Life Safety Councils. The State Fire Marshal's Office will coordinate with the Policy Board and the First Alert Company to hold a press conference when the detectors are ready to be distributed.

Congressional Legislation ~ Anjela provided an overview of the Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) Reform and reviewed letters received requesting support of the CPSC Reform Act of 2007. Anjela will draft letters of support to Senator Maria Cantwell and Representative Jay Inslee on behalf of the Policy Board. Once these letters have been approved by the Governor's Office, they will be forwarded to the Board for their signature at the February 27, 2008 meeting. Jim Broman suggested to Anjela that she ensure this

information is shared with the Department of Health, and that they are aware of the legislation.

Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarettes ~ It was noted that the Board's Position Paper #2 – Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarettes, should also be prepared for the Board's signature at the February 27, Regular Meeting.

Emergency Vehicle Incident Prevention ~ Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal Paul Snider presented the Information Item regarding re-accreditation of the Washington Fire Chief's Emergency Vehicle Incident Prevention Course. This will be presented as a Decision Item at the February 27th, 2008 Regular Meeting.

Sprinkler Position Paper ~ Mark Kahley provided an explanation for abstaining from endorsing the Fire Protection Policy Board's Position Paper #1 – Residential Fire Sprinklers. Mark advised that this is based on the fact that the Department of Natural Resources does not have structure protection authority and that sprinkler systems in single-family residences is a personal freedom issue.

State Fire Marshal Report ~ Mike provided an overview of the Fire Contingency Pool proviso language clarifying that this is for all risk incidents and not limited to fire. He also provided an overview of the legislative efforts to reinstitute the State Fire Marshal's Office in fire and life safety inspections of hospitals.

Mike advised that he attended two committee hearings. The hearing first was for the Residential Fire Sprinkler Committee. If the bill passes, the SBCC would be tasked with forming a committee of interested constituents to study the stumbling blocks of a single family residential sprinkler mandate. It is hoped that the committee will develop a methodology to overcome the road blocks and ultimately result in a single family residential sprinkler law. Mike testified to have the SFMO included, as they are responsible for licensing of the industry.

The second hearing was on the Washington Fire Chief's Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarette Bill. The SFMO testified on the \$250 per cigarette fee. Mike explained that the amount projected at this time will not be enough to offset the SFMO costs. Mike made a commitment that the SFMO will find the rest of the funding to avoid a shortfall. Mike advised that there was no opposition and this hearing went very well.

Mike provided an overview of the draft proposal for state funded regional delivery of basic firefighter training, and advised that if approved, this program would replace the current Basic Firefighter Training Reimbursement Program. Mike asked for input on the draft plan. Mike also advised that meetings are being scheduled with the fire service to discuss facilitating the EMAC process.

E-911 Report ~ No Report.

SIEC Report ~ Jim Broman provided an overview of the two Interoperability Summits that were held in Seattle and Spokane, which were focused on making local officials aware of the State Interoperability Plan and to build a network of support for the Plan. Jim also advised that a bill has been introduced to change the structure of the State Interoperability Committee by creating an Interoperability Office within the Governor's Office.

State Fire Defense Committee ~ Mark Kahley provided an overview of the meeting minutes from the January 15th State Fire Defense Committee, which was held by conference call. Mike Matlick advised that the SFMO is working towards taking corrective actions regarding the issue of working through lunch breaks as being compensable time as it relates to the Fair Labor Standards Act. Mike advised that the SFMO will also continue exploring having volunteers work as contractors, vs. employees of the State Patrol.

Action Items were reviewed and will continue to be monitored as other items are added and completed.

Good of the Order ~ Mark Kahley advised that DNR will be terminating their PBY air tanker contract by the end of March 2008.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:30.

Next Meeting:

February 27, 2008
General Administration Building
Olympia, WA

Approved:

T.J. Nedrow, FPPB Chair

(Date)